

SOME SUGGESTIONS.

Plenty of Work Ahead for the Legislature.

There are Many Reforms Needed and Among Them is the Revision of the Election Laws.

I notice that a good many suggestions are being made through the newspapers as to what legislation is needed at the coming session of the territorial legislature. What is needed most is a general revision of all the laws of the territory. If this should be done intelligently, it would be of more benefit than all the work of any session of the legislature yet held in New Mexico, but in view of the possible admission of the territory into the union, it is not likely that anything of the sort will be attempted at this session.

A complete change should be made in the election laws, beginning with the registration law. The expense of registering voters is five or six times as great as it ought to be, but it is hardly possible to reduce the expense under the present system of registration. The poll lists might be made from the assessor's roll and a provision might be made for voters to swear in their votes if their names should inadvertently be omitted from the poll books. The present system of recording and counting the votes is entirely too antiquated to be used in the United States. As every one knows who has served as a clerk of election, the votes might be counted in half the time that is now required, if the poll books were arranged differently. Additional safeguards should be provided to prevent election frauds which are entirely too common in some of the counties of the territory.

The law passed by the last legislature reducing fees and salaries, which will go into effect on the first of next month, is a good law as far as it goes, but additional legislation is needed on this subject. There is no reason why public officers in New Mexico should receive such large salaries as they are now getting. For more than ten years the sheriff of this county has received, on an average, nearly double the salary of the governor of the state of New York, the largest and wealthiest state in the union. These high salaries have only tended to corrupt the politics of the territory by making it possible for candidates for office to spend large sums of money in the campaigns. Let the salaries of all public officers be reduced to a point where candidates cannot afford to spend a small fortune in a campaign and there will be less corruption in politics.

The law in relation to the election of

county commissioners should be changed so as to have one or more members of the board hold over. If such a provision were made, there would always be one or more members of the board familiar with the affairs of the county and the interests of the public would be better subserved.

There are many other laws which ought to be passed, but it is too much to hope that the legislature of the territory will pass all the needed legislation at the coming session. Lex.

New Lodge Room Dedicated.

Last Saturday Grand Master J. J. Kelly, of the grand lodge of Masons of New Mexico, and M. H. Twomey, master of the lodge here, went to Georgetown to assist in the dedication of the new lodge room of the Mimbres lodge. The new lodge room is in the old hotel building across the street from the building in which the lodge formerly met and which was burned down some weeks ago.

The new quarters will be very comfortable when fitted up and the lodge will have the new furniture and regalia in a short time. The loss sustained by the lodge in the fire was only partially covered by insurance, but the members of the lodge expect to have the new room furnished in better style than the old one was.

Chief of scouts, G. H. Clayton, with a band of Apaches, was in the city Monday. He has located a trail of the Kid's and hopes to be able to ambush him down in the Chiricahuas. If he does he will be glad. If he fails he will not be disappointed. The last time Mr. Clayton was in New Mexico he had left Phoenix in a hurry to avoid telling the grand jury what he knew about certain alleged libels, for which John Dunbar, of the Gazette, served time in the Tucson jail. —Western Liberal.

The following officers have been elected by Silver City lodge, No. 8, A. F. & A. M., for the coming year: C. Bennett, W. M.; John Spiller, S. W.; Aaron Schutz, J. W.; J. W. Carter, treasurer; P. B. Lady, secretary. The installation will take place on the 27th inst.

NEW POSTAL RATES.

An Important Order is Issued by Mr. Bissell.

Provisions for uniform rates of postage for United States mails sent to every portion of the globe, with a few exceptions, is made in an order issued by Postmaster General Bissell. The rates are 5 cents for each half-ounce of mail, except for Canada and Mexico, where domestic rates of 2 cents an ounce are applicable, or to the postal agency at Shanghai. The order is as follows:

"By virtue of the authority conferred on the postmaster general by section 2922 of the revised statutes of the United States, and in view of the fact that all the countries and colonies of the civilized world with the exception of the Cape Colony, the Orange Free States and certain islands that are now embraced in the universal postal union, it is hereby ordered that on and after Jan. 1, 1895, the postal rates and conditions applicable to article of correspondence mailed in the United States, addressed for delivery with the Universal Postal union shall be applicable also to similar articles addressed for delivery at places not embraced in the universal postal union, except as hereinafter mentioned.

"This order does not apply to articles destined for Canada, Mexico, or the United States postal agency at Shanghai, to which more liberal postal rates and conditions now apply.

WILSON S. BISSELL,
"Postmaster General."

The Georgetown Masonic lodge has elected the following officers for the coming year: Alexander McGregor, W. M.; Thomas Knuckey, S. W.; W. Z. Redding, J. W.; J. S. Dawson, secretary; George V. Yates, treasurer.

Tramps are becoming very bold at Deming. Several attempts have been made at burglary there recently but so far there have been no very large losses.

A good rain fell here on Wednesday, Thursday and Friday of last week.

Several train loads of cattle have been shipped from Deming this month.

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Special Bargains in LADIES' GENTS'
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